

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

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R 270211Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5567

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5595

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN

SUBJECT: RED CROSS TALKS

REF: SEOUL 5524

1. KNRC SPOKESMAN CHONG CHOO-NYUN TOLD EMBOFF THAT ROKG, AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION IN CABINET-LEVEL GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING POLICY ON SOUTH-NORTH TALKS, HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH AUG 28 RED CROSS WORKING LEVEL SESSION AS SCHEDULED. ACCORDING CHONG, POLICY GROUP FELT THAT IN VIEW IMMINENCE OF UNGA, ROKG COULD NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FURTHER POSTPONING CONTACT WITH NORTH.

2. CHONG SAID THIS WAS OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION IN DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH RED CROSS MEETING, EVEN THOUGH RED CROSS OFFICIALS HAD FELT SNCC CHANNEL WAS MORE SUITABLE FORUM FOR FIRST SOUTH-NORTH CONTACT AFTER AUG 15 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HE CITED PYONGYANG RADIO'S POINTED REACTION TO SEOUL'S POSTPONE-MENT OF SNCC DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING (FBIS OKINAWA B220420 AUG) AS EXAMPLE OF PROPAGANDA GAIN NORTH COULD
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REAP FROM FURTHER ROK DELAY OF THE TALKS.

3. CHONG, WHO IS ONE OF SOUTH DELEGATES PARTICIPATING IN RED CROSS SESSION, SAID ROKG BELIEVES AUG 15 INCIDENT MUST BE AT LEAST RAISED IN RED CROSS MEETING, ACCORDINGLY, CHONG SAID SOUTH SIDE OPENING STATMENT WILL RECITE RECORD OF PROVOCATIONS AGAINST ROK, INCLUDING AUG 15 INCIDENT, AND CALL ON NORTH KOREAN SIDE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST "EXTREMISTS" THESE PROVOCATIONS. SOUTH WILL APPEAL TO NORTH TO RETURN TO HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS OF RED CROSS AND TO ACCEPT SOUTH PROPOSALS TO HOLD PLENARY CONFERENCE AND PROCEED WITH BUSINESS OF REUNITING DIVIDED FAMILIES. CHONG SAID SOUTH WILL EMPHASIZE THAT FOR ITS PART ROK IS WILLING TO RESUME DIALOGUE DESPITE RECENT INCIDENTS.
ERICSON

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